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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Letter dated 25 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

With the agreement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I have the honour to transmit the text of the attached resolutions adopted at the 102nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, which was held in Berlin from 10 to 16 October 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the resolutions circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 27.

(Signed) Dieter **Kastrup**
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

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Annex

Resolutions adopted at the 102nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Berlin from 10 to 16 October 1999

[Original: English and French]

CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO ENSURING RESPECT FOR AND PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

Resolution adopted without a vote by the 102nd Conference*
(Berlin, 15 October 1999)

The 102nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Noting, on the 50th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions, that these instruments and their two Additional Protocols have become a cornerstone of modern international humanitarian law and have made a significant contribution to its codification,

Concerned however that, after 50 years of trial and practice, humanitarian law remains the most vulnerable point in the credibility of the international legal system, and *alarmed* therefore by the continued violations of international humanitarian law,

Deeply concerned by the growing number of men, women and children who are killed, wounded, or subjected to humiliating or degrading treatment, and *further concerned* that civilians, including refugees and internally displaced persons, account for the vast majority of casualties in armed conflicts,

Alarmed by the growing use of children as soldiers in various conflicts throughout the world, in flagrant violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments,

Recalling the resolutions to promote compliance with international humanitarian law adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Conferences of Buenos Aires (76th Conference, 1986) and Canberra (90th Conference, 1993) and the resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Council of September 1997 (161st session, Cairo) and September 1998 (163rd session, Moscow),

Commending the activities of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law and *welcoming* the publication of the Handbook for use by parliamentarians entitled "Respect for International Humanitarian Law",

Recalling the recent report of the United Nations Secretary-General entitled "The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict" which sets out 40 recommendations for action,

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* The delegations of Peru, Mexico, Uruguay, China, Cuba and the Syrian Arab Republic expressed reservations on the provisions relating to the International Criminal Court. The latter three delegations also expressed reservations regarding the provisions relating to landmines.

Welcoming the adoption of the Statute of the International Criminal Court on 17 July 1998 in Rome which, by complementing national criminal justice systems, will help to end the culture of impunity and protect all people against the most egregious violations of humanitarian law,

Recognising that the adoption of the Statute of Rome is a major step forward in the quest to uphold the rule of law and bring to justice perpetrators of the most serious crimes identified in international law: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and aggression,

Recalling that the Statute will also facilitate the investigation and prosecution of crimes of sexual and gender violence including: rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced sterilisation and other forms of sexual violence,

Noting that the International Criminal Court cannot begin its essential work until 60 States have ratified the Rome Statute, and *commending*, in this connection, those States that have ratified this instrument,

Stressing the serious threat posed by the widespread use of landmines, which have brought death to many innocent civilians and hindered the return of refugees, the provision of infrastructure and reconstruction in the affected areas long after hostilities have ended,

Welcoming the entry into force on 1 March 1999 of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and its ratification by 87 States,

Concerned by the effects of the uncontrolled transfer of light weapons and small arms, which contributes to exacerbating tensions, increasing the number of civilian victims, prolonging conflicts, hampering the post-conflict reconstruction process and thus undermines respect for international humanitarian law,

Disturbed by the continuing production and existence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the threat they pose to international peace and security,

Welcoming the wide adherence to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, but *noting with concern* that adherence to these instruments is not yet universal,

Recognising the importance of the actions of impartial humanitarian organisations and the specific role of the International Committee of the Red Cross, both in peace time and in time of armed conflict, and *acknowledging* that the latter affords a valuable framework for Governments to meet and discuss the further development and implementation of international humanitarian law,

Stressing that the promotion and observance of international humanitarian law can be ensured only if, in formulating and implementing the relevant policies, governments refrain from bias and from applying double standards in their treatment of violations of humanitarian law and of those responsible for such violations,

Emphasising the importance of the neutrality and impartiality of the mechanisms of international humanitarian law;

Further emphasising that parliaments can play an important and constructive role in creating conditions conducive to the promotion of international humanitarian law, by enacting the necessary legislation and supervising and monitoring its implementation,

I. Geneva Conventions

1. *Calls on* States which have not already done so to ratify and implement the major instruments of international humanitarian law and international treaties on human rights and refugees, and to strengthen the existing body of international humanitarian law by negotiating, ratifying and implementing appropriate treaties and establishing mechanisms to enhance the protection of civilians in armed conflicts; and to align national laws and regulations with international humanitarian standards;

2. *Urges* the States concerned to comply strictly and ensure compliance with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international treaties on human rights and refugees, in particular those set out in The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 and in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977;

3. *Calls on* States to take steps to address effectively other serious repercussions of war on civilians and humanitarian personnel, and to strengthen safety and security requirements for humanitarian personnel, including locally recruited staff;

II. Child soldiers

4. *Requests* all States to take all feasible measures to ensure that children who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take part in hostilities or military action, and are not recruited under compulsion into the armed forces; and to ensure the early adoption of the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict;

III. International Criminal Court

5. *Calls on* States to support and cooperate with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in their ongoing efforts to prosecute and try those accused of violating international humanitarian law;

6. *Also calls on* States to maintain a firm commitment to the ideals of the International Criminal Court and to give it their full co-operation in order to make it a strong and effective institution;

7. *Further calls on* States to sign and ratify as soon as possible, preferably without reservations, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

8. *Invites* member parliaments to pledge to undertake any action and adopt any measure that may encourage all States which have not yet signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Calls on* States to conduct an early review of their laws and regulations and to undertake any necessary amendments or revision in order, as the case may be, to prepare for ratification or to conform with requirements for ratification of the Rome Statute;

IV. Anti-Personnel Mines

10. *Also calls on* States to accede to or ratify the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines, if they have not yet done so;

11. *Requests* States which have ratified the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines to take the necessary steps to meet their obligations to destroy stockpiles within four years and to clear mined areas within ten years;

12. *Calls on* States to assist, at the international level, in efforts to eliminate the use of landmines, and to monitor compliance with the provisions of the Ottawa Convention;

13. *Calls on* parliaments to make use of existing committees and other mechanisms or establish such bodies if necessary, to monitor and review the implementation of the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines;

14. *Condemns* those States and non-State actors that produce, use or export these obnoxious weapons in defiance of the Ottawa Convention;

15. *Urges* States that produce or use this pernicious weapon, to cease production immediately and to provide financial and technical assistance for (i) de-mining efforts, especially in heavily mined areas, (ii) victim assistance programmes, including rehabilitation and retraining activities, and (iii) mine awareness activities to reduce the risk of accidents;

V. Small Arms

16. *Urges* States to halt arms transfers to parties that target relief workers, undermine humanitarian assistance and violate human rights and international humanitarian law;

VI. Other weapons

17. *Calls for* the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the early conclusion of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

VII. Follow-up

18. *Appeals to* the members of the international community to attach greater importance to the prevention of wars and crises and to make appropriate provision for such prevention in their foreign, trade, security and development policies;

19. *Calls on* governments and parliaments to intensify their efforts for the dissemination, teaching and wider appreciation of international humanitarian law;

20. *Invites* parliamentarians of all countries to ensure that the matter of compliance with and enforcement of international humanitarian law is regularly considered by and brought to the attention of their fellow members during sittings of parliamentary committees or plenary sessions of their respective parliaments, a procedure that would afford an opportunity to consider whether reservations made at the time of ratification continue to be justified;

21. *Further invites* parliaments to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the Handbook for Parliamentarians entitled *Respect for International Humanitarian Law* among parliamentarians and persons who work with them to promote respect for international humanitarian law; and to this end to have the Handbook translated into national languages;

22. *Requests* the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law to monitor implementation of this resolution and to report to the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 168th session in 2000.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF ETHNIC, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, INCLUDING MIGRANT POPULATIONS, WITHIN ONE STATE, MARKED BY TOLERANCE AND THE FULL RESPECT FOR THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS

Resolution adopted without a vote by the 102nd Conference
(Berlin, 15 October 1999)

The 102nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Referring to the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992),

Reaffirming the numerous resolutions on minority questions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in recent years, in which measures were recommended to parliaments and governments for protecting minorities in various regions of the world, in particular:

> "Contribution to the United Nations efforts to achieve complete decolonisation, end racism and apartheid, and promotion of the individual and collective rights of nationalities and of ethnic minorities" (Budapest 1989, 81st Inter-Parliamentary Conference)
>
> "The organization and functioning of democracy and the expression of ethnic diversity as a means of ensuring the stability of all States, economic development and better use of the peace dividend for the benefit of the Third World" (Yaoundé 1992, 87th Inter-Parliamentary Conference)
>
> "The international mass migration of people: its demographic, religious, ethnic and economic causes; its effects on source and receiving countries, its implications internationally; and the rights of migrants and refugees" (Stockholm 1992, 88th Inter-Parliamentary Conference)
>
> "The protection of minorities as a global issue and a prerequisite for stability, security and peace" (Istanbul 1996, 95th Inter-Parliamentary Conference),

Acknowledging the importance, for the stability and economic development of States, of the peaceful coexistence of different ethnic, cultural and religious communities and mutual respect and official recognition of their traditions, languages, religions and customs,

Reaffirming, at the same time, that persons belonging to minorities should exercise their rights in good faith and with loyalty to the State in which they live, without detriment to the principle of the sovereignty and integrity of States, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

Placing particular emphasis on the value of intercultural relations between different ethnic, cultural and religious communities as a source of cultural enrichment,

Deeply concerned that serious problems, including forced assimilation and repression, will lead to conflicts between ethnic, cultural or religious communities around the world,

Emphasising the obligation of all ethnic, cultural and religious communities and their members to resolve problems harmoniously and in cooperation and to facilitate the integration of all,

Considering that all disputes and conflicts, particularly those involving ethnic, cultural or religious minorities, must be resolved peacefully, without violence, in a spirit of mutual respect and in accordance with international law, at both national and international level,

Underscoring the particular obligation of parliaments and their members to defend and promote the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, cultural and religious minorities, thereby creating a world in which every individual enjoys all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Recognising that, while throughout history migrant workers have contributed to the economic development of host countries and enriched their cultural and historical heritage, in some cases, large numbers of refugees can, by their mere quantity, affect the stability of the labour markets and social security and education systems of recipient countries,

Acknowledging that migration occurs not only between developed nations and developing countries but also between the latter, and that migrants are frequently refugees, including economic refugees, who constitute a category which this Conference expressly recognises,

Taking into account that, at a time of unprecedented capital mobility and significantly fewer obstacles to the free movement of business personnel and the freedom of commercial transactions, the free movement of persons remains subject to many restrictions,

Convinced that there has been overall progress in the observance of human rights, especially since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948,

Deeply concerned that in many countries violations of basic human rights, particularly the rights of persons belonging to minorities, are a frequent cause of migration,

Noting the relevance of the plight of refugees to the efforts of the international community to ensure peaceful coexistence between communities in host countries,

Aware that instances of mass inflows of refugees are on the rise,

Noting the growing number of refugees fleeing from environmental disasters,

Noting with satisfaction the decisions and initiatives taken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist the countries and regions most affected by mass movements of refugees, by promoting the principle of burden-sharing,

Recognising that receiving countries are concerned at the socio-economic implications for social harmony and peaceful coexistence of providing indefinite protection and assistance to large numbers of refugees,

Alarmed that a mass influx of refugees can in some countries lead to public disturbance and affect the country's capacity to protect the most vulnerable groups,

Condemning manifestations of xenophobia, racism and intolerance towards migrants and ethnic, cultural and religious minorities,

Stressing the crucial role of education in promoting a spirit of tolerance and the principle of non-discrimination towards all persons, with due regard to minorities,

Highly concerned at the particular vulnerability of migrant workers, illegal migrants and refugees, who are often victims of abuse,

Bearing in mind that in 1990 the United Nations adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the Members of their Families,

Welcoming the appointment in 1998 by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, on the proposal of the Government of Mexico, of a special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants,

Welcoming the decision by the United Nations General Assembly (1997/III) to convene in 2001 a World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance,

A. Democratic values and mechanisms

1. *Calls on* all parliaments and their members to take appropriate measures so that:

(i) Mutual respect and cooperation among ethnic, cultural and religious communities are expressed, for the most part, not in special laws but, more effectively, in the framework of a constitution guaranteeing the freedom of individuals;

(ii) International and regional agreements to preserve the identity of ethnic, cultural and religious minorities are ratified or signed by the States concerned which have not yet done so;

(iii) National legislation is reviewed and, if necessary, amended to ensure its consistency with the provisions and standards of international law that concern respect for minorities;

(iv) National parliamentary bodies or ombudsman institutions are created to monitor permanently the consistency of actions taken by the legislature, judiciary and executive with international and national objectives regarding the rights of minorities;

(v) National guidelines and programmes are drawn up and implemented, giving due consideration to the legitimate interests of the members of all minorities, in order to preclude all intolerance;

(vi) Conditions are created for the mutual respect of the ethnic, cultural and religious identities of all the communities of society;

(vii) School and university curricula include courses on human rights;

(viii) Respect for the fundamental principles of human rights and for ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, a spirit of tolerance and inter-cultural dialogue are promoted among the public;

(ix) Parliaments and their members use all means available to them to promote peaceful coexistence and constructive cooperation between different communities and to prevent any unfavourable or discriminatory treatment arising from membership of an ethnic, cultural or religious minority;

(x) All acts of racism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and religious discrimination are prohibited and punished by law;

(xi) International and regional human rights organisations recognised by the United Nations have the necessary access to information on the conditions of cooperation and coexistence between ethnic, cultural and religious communities;

(xii) All interested parties have access to the information and proposals of human rights bodies which concern members of ethnic, cultural and religious minorities;

B. Cultures, languages and religions of ethnic, cultural and religious minorities

2. *Calls on* parliaments and their members to advocate:

(i) That identification with an ethnic, cultural or religious community and membership of such a community should be a matter of free choice;

(ii) That the members of an ethnic, religious or linguistic minority should be free to practice their own culture and customs individually or together with other members, profess and practice their own religion, enjoy their own education and use their own language in private and in public;

(iii) That, where there is the demand, the necessary conditions should be created and safeguarded to ensure that the languages of all ethnic minorities can be spoken, taught and learned on the basis of free choice and that awareness should be raised of the social, economic and cultural realities of minorities;

(iv) That access to good training and qualifications should be assured for members of all ethnic, cultural and religious minorities in the same conditions as for other nationals;

C. The media and their portrayal of ethnic, cultural and religious minorities

3. *Calls on* all parliaments and their members, while respecting freedom of the press and freedom of opinion and expression, to see to it that:

(i) Media workers are encouraged to give an objective and balanced picture of all ethnic, cultural and religious minorities in accordance with ethical principles;

(ii) Racist and discriminatory depictions are prohibited;

D. Participation in working life and receipt of social benefits

4. *Appeals* to all parliaments and their members to ensure:

(i) That no disadvantage can arise for members of ethnic, cultural and religious minorities in respect of access to gainful employment solely as a result of open profession of such membership;

(ii) That all nationals belonging to ethnic, cultural and religious minorities receive the same treatment as the other members of society in respect of social and other publicly funded benefits;

E. Participation in democratic and social life

5. *Asks* all parliaments and their members to ensure:

(i) That the right to participate in free elections by secret ballot is guaranteed for citizens belonging to any ethnic, cultural or religious minority;

(ii) That ethnic, cultural and religious minorities are appropriately involved in political decision-making and are able to assert their interests democratically;

(iii) That the constitution and legislation of each country entitles all legal residents belonging to any ethnic, cultural or religious minority to acquire property freely;

(iv) That the members of all ethnic, cultural and religious minorities are granted free access to, and the right to a hearing by, public administrative authorities and all courts of law, and that the rights they share with the other members of society are upheld;

(v) That public law enforcement officers treat the members of all ethnic, cultural and religious minorities in a non-discriminatory manner and that efforts are made within law enforcement agencies to provide education to ensure non-discriminatory treatment;

(vi) That the members of all ethnic, cultural and religious minorities are informed as to their fundamental rights and the means available for asserting them;

F. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

6. *Calls on* all parliaments:

(i) To participate actively in the preparation of the World Conference against Racism;

(ii) To encourage governments and the authorities concerned to make this event a success so as to further the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance;

(iii) To mobilise all national institutions so that special attention is paid to the effects of racism and racial discrimination in education, training and employment on children belonging to minorities and migrant children, and that steps are taken to remedy these effects;

G. The difficult situation of migrant workers

7. *Calls on* parliaments to encourage all the institutions responsible in their countries:

(i) To observe and promote full respect for the human rights of migrants, especially migrant workers, regardless of their status as migrants;

(ii) To promote a culture of openness towards migrants, focusing on the positive contribution of their work and efforts to the economies in which they are employed;

(iii) To consider ratifying, if they have not yet done so, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families adopted by the United Nations in 1990;

8. *Calls on* the international institutions concerned to provide assistance and support to the recipient countries to enable them to take better care of economic refugees and find humanitarian solutions for the problems caused by massive migration, and to assist the countries of origin in combating the economic causes of migration;

9. *Expresses* its firm support for the recent appointment by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, as proposed by the Government of Mexico, of a special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants;

H. The urgency of the situation of refugees

10. *Calls on* the international organisations concerned to intensify their efforts to assist the countries most affected by mass inflows of refugees;

11. *Calls on* members of parliament to work actively to solve the problem of refugees by enacting laws and regulations which embody the principle of burden-sharing;

12. *Calls on* the international community and members of parliament to take steps so that people forced to leave their homes and countries as a result of environmental disasters are recognised as refugees, in accordance with the principles of the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

THE NEED TO REVISE THE CURRENT GLOBAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC MODEL

Resolution adopted without a vote by the 102nd Conference*
(Berlin, 15 October 1999)

The 102nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Aware of the recent and continuing monetary and economic turmoil in various regions of the world, and of its economic and social consequences,

Convinced that, in view of the high degree of economic interdependence that the world has reached, parliamentarians should avoid focusing solely on the economic management of their own countries, and should bear in mind all the implications of global standards and draw on all available knowledge, including that of government officials, international institutions, financiers and academic experts, in a constant effort to provide a better environment for the functioning of the world economy,

Noting that political and economic action should place greater emphasis in the future on the long-term goal of sustainable development in order to achieve a fair balance of interests for men and women and for present and future generations,

Further noting that the development of the world economy since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992) has not been such as to achieve the objectives set in *Agenda 21* regarding changes in patterns of resource consumption, modes of production and lifestyles,

Noting the urgent need for all governments to accede to the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change,

Welcoming the growing attention paid to good governance,

1. *Emphasises* that, to ensure the necessary conditions for orderly foreign exchange movements, vital work remains to be done, especially in the areas of exchange rate regimes - including the pegging of currencies to baskets comprising currencies of major trading partners, the liberalisation of capital accounts, the introduction of capital controls and the regulation of hedge funds and currency trading;

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* After the adoption of the text, the delegation of Japan made known its reservations on paragraph 15 and its objection to paragraph 17.

2. *Calls* for the development of appropriate regulatory safeguards for capital markets, which ensure transparency and the application of valuation and disclosure norms, and in general promote the harmonisation and improvement of world accountancy standards;

3. *Urges* international financial and monetary institutions to give more thought, when drawing up structural adjustment plans, to the specific characteristics of each country and to strive for a political and social consensus on these reforms;

4. *Also urges* that, in areas where recommendations have received broad support, emerging, developing and developed countries implement such recommendations promptly so as to improve global financial stability and, more importantly, promote sustainable development;

5. *Stresses* the urgent need for recommendations to be agreed and implemented as a matter of priority by various forums and bodies of the United Nations and of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

6. *Urges* that the recommendations of the UNESCO World Conference on Science (Budapest, 26 June - 1 July 1999) be taken into account in negotiations on trade, development and the environment;

7. *Believes* that it is necessary for developing countries to be well represented in the consultations currently under way to reform the international financial architecture;

8. *Calls on* the private sector to match actions taken by governments in order to strengthen best practices on a cooperative and equal basis in a variety of areas, including transparency and disclosure of economic, financial, social and environmental information, as this would significantly enhance the resilience of the global financial system, which is considered crucial to growth-enhancing policies;

9. *Also calls on* governments and the various international financial institutions to address unresolved issues concerning the regulation of highly leveraged institutions and to seek a solution to the problem of tax havens and off-shore banking;

10. *Further calls on* all donor States to increase the proportion of gross national product (GNP) earmarked for official development assistance in order to meet the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of GNP;

11. *Urges* national parliaments to promote a contingency credit line in the IMF that would be subject to the same social criteria as other credits;

12. *Calls on* international financial institutions to agree to country loans only if they have been ratified by the parliament of the recipient country;

13. *Calls* for implementation of the agreement concluded by the Group of Seven (G-7) in Cologne to lighten the debt burden and for all creditor countries to contribute to this unprecedented endeavour on the basis of the principle of equity;

14. *Stresses* the urgent need for effective mobilisation of additional financial resources for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative from multilateral, bilateral and corporate sources and, in this connection, *expects* these limited funds to be used exclusively to overcome poverty and promote widespread sustainable development in the countries concerned;

15. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Council to create appropriate mechanisms to follow up the resolutions on the problem of external debt which were adopted at the 99th, 100th, 101st and the present Inter-Parliamentary Conference;

16. *Also invites* creditor countries, private banks and multilateral finance institutions to pursue, within their respective purviews, efforts to address the commercial debt problems of the least developed countries and to ensure that the resources requested continue to be mobilised through the Debt-Reduction Facility of the International Development Association in order to help the least developed countries to reduce their commercial debt;

17. *Calls on* all governments to refrain from taking unilateral financial and economic actions that undermine the economic development of other countries;

18. *Also calls on* global financial and economic institutions to ensure that women participate on an equal footing in decision-making that concerns multinational financial and commercial issues;

19. *Recommends* that the IPU and the World Bank enhance their institutional links, in particular, with regard to ensuring follow-up to the present resolution;

20. *Calls on* the developed countries to keep their markets open and to refrain from introducing protectionist measures or artificial non-tariff barriers that would undermine economic recovery in developing countries;

21. *Urges* Governments to make every effort to ensure that negotiations on the further liberalisation of trade, including trade in agriculture, at the Seattle Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are broad-based and produce substantial and realistic results;

22. *Calls on* Governments to promote transparency and openness in the WTO and facilitate participation in the WTO negotiating process by appropriate bodies of the United Nations, the IPU and civil society institutions recognised by the United Nations;

23. *Advocates* sustainable agricultural practices in all countries and, to this end, the provision for developing countries of agricultural machinery, technology and fertilisers which are adapted to the agro-climatic aspects of regional development policies;

24. *Urges* Governments to take action against private and public companies and individuals involved in illegal cross-border trade, illegal financial transactions and dumping practices.

102nd CONFERENCE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The 102nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union* was held in Berlin (Federal Republic of Germany) from 10 to 16 October 1999, at the invitation of the German Parliament. The Conference brought together 722 members of Parliament from 134 countries and the representatives of 21 observer delegations.

In the course of its proceedings, the Conference adopted the attached resolutions.

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* **The Inter-Parliamentary Union's membership was as follows as at 16 October 1999:**

Members (139)

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Associate Members

Andean Parliament, Central American Parliament, European Parliament, Latin American Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe